

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05306 081641Z

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ACTION NEA-02

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING
EXTENSIVELY COVERED, WITH NEWS TREATMENT VARYING WIDELY.
LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR HEADLINES "DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED OR POSTPONED WITHIN 48 HOURS."
PRO-CAIRO AL ANWAR:"KISSINGER AND GROMYKO AND
KISSINGER DID NOT AGREE ON ANYTHING," AND PREDICTED SYRIA
WILL DEMAND REIMPOSITION OF OIL EMBARGO. PRO-COMMANDO
AL MUHARRIR: "KSSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS HAVE COLLAPSED.
TWO SIDES HAVE FAILED TO AGREE ON DISENGAGEMENT FORMULA."
CONSERVATIVE AL YAT: "KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING FRUSTRATING."
END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIALY, AN NAHAR WROTE: "IF IT IS TRUE IN PRACTICE,
NOT WORDS, THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE 'CONSTRUCTIVE' AND
'USEFUL'...THAT WOULD MEAN DR. KISSINGER HAS RETURNED TO
ISRAEL STRONGER THAN WHEN HE LEFT IT. SOURCE OF HIS
STRENGTH THIS TIME IS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUE...
... AS THINGS APPEAR NOW, IF SYRIAN-ISRAELI

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05306 081641Z

IMPASSE IS NOT SOLVED THROUGH U.S. AND USSR, THERE WILL BE

NO HOPE IN SOLVING IT AT ALL... ONLY GENUINE, NOT FORMAL,
ISRAELI CONCESSIONS WILL SAVE DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION AND
U.S. POLICY.

3. INDEPENDENT LISAN AL HAL: "PRIOR TO GROMYKO'S ARRIVAL
IN DAMASCUS, THERE WAS MORE PESSIMISM REGARDING DR. KISSINGER'S
MISSION THAN NOW... IT IS TRUE GROMYKO CANNOT PRESSURE
SYRIA, BECAUSE SYRIA HAS CERTAIN BASIC DEMANDS FROM WHICH
IT WILL NOT DEVIATE. BUT GROMYKO CAN SUGGEST TO SYRIA,
FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IT ACCEPTS EMERGENCY FORCES, OR PERMITS
SYRIAN JEWS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, BECAUSE USSR ITSELF
PERMITS SUCH EMIGRAION."

4. AL MUHARRIR: "DESPITE ALL EFFORTS...TO DEPICT
DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT
OPTIMISTICALLY...ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THESE EFFORTS
ARE BLOCKED BY ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE,...EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE
IN KISSINGER'S MIRACLES AND U.S. INTENTIONS, SHOULD HASTEN TO
SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN SYRIA BECAUSE THIS ONLY ROAD LEADING TO
HONORABLE SETTLEMENT."

5. ASH SHARQ: "FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION WILL BE
INEVITABLE TEST OF U.S. POLICY ROLE IN FACE OF ISRAEL'S
INTRANSIGENCE... THOSE IN SYMPATHY WITH WASHINGTON'S
POLICY MUST BE THE FIRST TO REVOLT AGAINST IT IF IT DOES
NOT DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE BY
CUTTING OFF AID TO ISRAEL."

6. PRO-CAIRO AL YOUM: "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE MAIN CAUSE OF A FAILURE OF DISENGAGEMENT
TALKS. ISRAEL ALONE WILL THEN BEAR RESPONSIBILITY, NOT
ONLY TOWARD ARABS BUT TOWARD WHOLE WORLD, PARTICULARLY
U.S. AND USSR. RAISING BY ISRAEL OF QUESTION OF SYRIAN
CITIZENS IS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF ITS ATTEMPT TO OBSTRUCT
KISSINGER'S MISSION.

7. AL HAYAT: "AIM OF GROMUKO'S CONTACT WITH DR. KISSINGER
MAY BE TO RESTORE AURA OF OPTIMISM, OR AT LEAST BUSINESS-
LIKE ATMOSPHERE, TO KISSINGER'S MOVES IN AREA.

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05306 081641Z

8. INDEPENDENT AL BAYRAQ: "IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER TWO
MINISTERS HAVE AGREED ON MAIN THING, NAMELY FULL WITHDRAWAL...
IT IS DEFINITE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY AGREE ALL PARTIES SHOULD
GO TO GENEVA."
GODLEY

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